



County of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Social Services

Bryce Yokomizo  
Director

July 29, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE  
EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES TO HOMELESS  
GENERAL RELIEF APPLICANTS AND PARTICIPANTS WITH  
THE WEINGART CENTER ASSOCIATION AND  
SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY HOUSING CORPORATION  
(ALL DISTRICTS - 3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD**

1. Approve and instruct the Chair to sign the enclosed three-year contracts with the Weingart Center Association (WCA), a private nonprofit organization, and with the Single Room Occupancy Housing Corporation (SRO), a private nonprofit organization, to provide temporary shelter to homeless General Relief (GR) applicants and participants, for the term starting September 1, 2003 or the date after Board approval, whichever is later, through August 31, 2006, with an estimated annual cost of \$438,000 for the contract with WCA and \$1,007,400 for the contract with SRO, fully financed by net County cost (NCC). Funding for these contracts is included in the FY 2003-04 Adopted Budget. Funding for future years will be included in the Department's annual budget requests.
2. Delegate authority to the Director, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), to prepare and sign amendments to these contracts that result in any decrease, or any increase of no more than ten percent of the original contract rates when the change is necessitated by additional units of service or in order for the Contractor to remain in compliance with changes in the County requirements. The approval of County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) will be obtained prior to executing such amendments, and the Director will notify the CAO in writing within ten business days after execution.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17000 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code, the County Department of Public Social Services provides cash aid and material support to indigents under the County's GR Program. The County has contracted for emergency shelter services with WCA since 1986 and with SRO since 1987, and the current contracts with each will expire on August 31, 2003. To ensure the County's need for emergency shelter services are met, WCA and SRO will provide temporary housing for GR applicants/participants and will reserve these shelter beds for DPSS' exclusive use until 6:00 p.m. each night.

Any DPSS-reserved beds not used by 6:00 p.m. are not paid for by DPSS. They are freed up by the Contractor and made available for use by others in need. If on any day the Contractor does not make the DPSS-reserved beds available to the County, the Contractor shall reimburse the County for each bed unavailable at the rate of \$24 per bed.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The contracts are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan's Goal #1 (Service Excellence) to provide the public with easy access to quality information and services that are both beneficial and responsive.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The estimated annual cost of the contracts with WCA and SRO is \$438,000 and \$1,007,400 respectively, fully financed by NCC. Funding for these contracts is included in the FY 2003-04 Adopted Budget. Funding for the future years will be included in the Department's annual budget requests.

DPSS will compensate WCA and SRO one month in arrears, at the rate of \$24 per bed, per day, for each shelter bed provided to homeless GR applicants/participants the previous month. This is an \$8 increase (from \$16 per day, per bed) from the current contracts. This increase is pursuant to your Board's adoption of the FY 03-04 budget which included additional funding for the vendor voucher program.

The increase is needed because the number of participating vendors has declined 70% in the past five years. The decrease is largely due to the prior \$16 reimbursement rate in effect since 1984. Given the County is legally mandated to provide emergency shelter to homeless GR applicants, this increase represents a financial incentive for

current and potential vendors while maintaining the County's compliance with its legal obligation. Also, the projected number of beds that will be provided daily is 115 at SRO and 50 at WCA. This is an increase from 90 and 35, respectively, from the current contracts.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

These contracts are authorized under California Government Code Section 26227. In 1988, the Ross and Tan V. Board of Supervisors and Tanaka lawsuit required DPSS to ensure all homeless GR applicants are provided shelter. The County has contracted with WCA since May 1, 1986 and SRO since 1987. Both have provided temporary shelter to homeless GR applicants/participants in a safe and clean environment. They are located in the inner city of Los Angeles.

The Department of Health Services has made monthly inspections at both facilities and they have consistently achieved the highest ratings under the County's emergency housing standards.

The award of these contracts will not result in unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and will be in full compliance with federal, State and County regulations.

The contracts include the provision for the Contractor to first consider hiring County employees targeted for layoff or qualified former County employees who are on a reemployment list during the life of the Agreements when filling future vacancies.

The contracts also require that the Contractor consider hiring participants of the Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) Program and General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) Program.

Provisions for the County's Jury Service Program have been included in the contracts. The Contractors are in compliance with the Jury Service Program.

The Safely Surrendered Baby Law provisions are included in the contracts, which require the Contractors to notify and provide a fact sheet to their employees regarding the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, its implementation in Los Angeles County and where to safely surrender a baby.

The contracts have been approved as to form by County Counsel.

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### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

These contracts were negotiated as sole source contracts.

The Department has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply as the recommended contracts are not being awarded under the provisions of Chapter 2.121 of the County Code. Provisions of County Code Chapter 2.121 do not apply as these services cannot be effectively performed by County employees since they require the development and utilization of resources which are not available in the County system.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of these contracts will allow the Department to continue to provide emergency shelter services to its homeless GR applicants. The service level required under the recommended contracts is the same as in the current contracts.

The contracts will not infringe on the rights of the County in relationship to its residents, and the County's ability to respond to emergencies will not be impaired. There is no change in risk exposure to the County.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return one (1) adopted stamped Board Letter and four (4) original signed copies of each contract to DPSS.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Bryce Yokomizo  
Director

BY:dk

Enclosures

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller